cerns a subject so difficult, so abstruse, so involved as the subject of prophecy we are certainly to be congratulated when some one arises who feels competent to hold a candle for our ignorance.

Brother Bauman's ability, sincerity and eminent character commands for him the respectful attention of his contemporaries. We anticipate with great interest his articies on prophecy, and feel sure that he can enlighten us as much as any other writer. If I have provoked his zeal, if I have stirred up Cassel, Brown, perhaps other masters in Israel, if I have directed attention to the study of important Bible subjects, my little rivulet of words will not have run in vain.

BROTHER RENCH'S CHURCH GOVERNMENT

G. A. COPP

In the doctrinal number of the EVANGELIST just issued brother G. W. Rench gives a fine portrayal of New Testament church government.

There are thousands of supposed Christians who think they know it all and who have much of the reins of the church in their hands that seem to have no true conception of the word of God on this point. If they are offended they usually proceed to visit their offence on the head of the offender, which is certainly contrary to the word of God. The works of the flesh are manifest in the church today and all the fruits of the spirit are not found in many of God's so called children and expounders of his Word.

If, as Brother Rench says, the Word of God was observed as it should be there would be no need of church conferences, courts; councils, etc. to expel a single member.

In my eighteen years experience as a member of the church I have never cast my voice or vote for the expulsion of a solitary member of the church, but on the other hand, I have labored to restrain those who sought to expel offenders, and I think we have had here in the valley of Virginia, perhaps, as sore trials as any in the church, yet we have passed the critical period without any expulsions in any work in which I was connected.

Bishop Kephart of the U. B. church remarked in a conference near here a few years past on hearing the report of one of the ministers of the conference in which the minister had received three members in the church and had expelled some seventeen, that the devil could have done as well as that. I heartily commended his remarks. The devil can and does expel members of the church thru God's so called people, but it takes men filled with the Holy Ghost and with a full knowledge of God's word to get people become sons and daughters of the king of kings.

If the wayward were dealt with and as tenderly sought for as the parable of the lost sheep teaches, but few would be lost to God and the church. Or, if we would poultice and apply ointment and as tenderly care for the excressent member of Christ's body as we do the members of our own body we would hold on to them as dear life to us. The spirit of selfishness and imperialism, has gotten deeply rooted in the churches so that much of the spirit of Christ is wanting. We boast of being a Bible people, but these same boasters lack in true humbleness of mind and heart.

In politics we see this spirit of selfishness manifested so that one faction will endeavor to choke the other to death in order to conquer. Many of these politicians are so-called Christians and carry the same spirit in the church much to its shame.

Oh, for the day when Christ shall *dwell* and *rule* in the hearts of his people! Oh, for the day when Christ shall rule and dwell in the church and in this land of ours!

Oh, for the day when men will be dispossessed of the spirit of selfishness and greed for power, and the true spirit of humbleness of mind and gentleness, even to the forward shall come. Then only can we hope to see God, for only the pure in heart shall see him.

THE PASTOR AND HIS STUDIES

Z. T. LIVENGOOD

"And he gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and pastors and teachers for the perfecting of the saints." Eph. 4: 11. The word pastor is sometimes translated shepherd and to us the latter would carry with it more plainness of meaning. The word in the original means, to feed, to guide, to keep, to lull, to soothe.

1. The pastor ought to be called of God, just as the successful farmer is called of God, or the mechanic or the manufacturer or inventor or teacher or any legitimate and divine calling. I mean to say that there ought to be a divine fitness for the calling of pastor. The call may come direct from the Holy Ghost or from the church or from the individual.

Whatever may be the instrument thru which the call comes, *God* must do the sealing and sanctioning. It must not be forgotten that the labor to be wrought is God's work and must be done with his approbation and direction.

2. To be successful the pastor must be a good man. To be of even doubtful character, will be a constant annoyance and influence against his divinely commissioned work. Goodness, purity, holiness, knowledge and wisdom are all elements that will work in favor with the labors of the real pastor. The Holy Spirit can utilize a *holy pastor* much more successfully than he can the *intellectual one*. God works thru *goodness* more readily and successfully than thru *smartness*. Paul says, "Knowledge puffeth up but charity edifies or builds up." The pastor needs to be broad and strong as a man, well versed in the Old and New Testament, in history, an excellent student of human nature, and obedient to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and *filled with the Holy Ghost*. Success in our work as pastors, depends largely upon our characters. For it is very difficult to produce a good character without a fair degree of intelligence. Knowledge and goodness ought to go together. But of the two, we must not fail to fully understand that the greatest of all is *charity*.

Many of the churches have suffered and become weak and sickly and some have fallen asleep, because of some unevenly balanced pastor, one who was intellectual and lacked spirituality, pastors who cared more for the fleece than they did for the sheep. Jesus was the ideal Shepherd. His commission came from the Father and it was the feeding, the guiding, the keeping and the comforting of the sheep. In the same way the pastor now must in some way feel that his call is from God, not to accumulate earthly riches, but to care for the sheep.

Right there is a grave and awful evil in some churches in calling a pastor. They too frequently call a pastor just to have a change, or to have some one who will not administer such careful and rigid discipline, or perhaps to more pleasantly tickle and amuse and entertain the people. Churches, *you* do much of the calling of pastors. Are you qualified to call? Do you call with the proper motive? Do you call as God wants you to? Is your call in accord with the Word and the Holy Ghost? Oh! that there might be less trifling with the divine office, and that pastors and churches would more earnestly and truly follow the gospel instructions.

Then again I am persuaded to say that I fail to find any gospel precedent or teaching that will justify people to hire a pastor for six months or one year, or even two years. To me it seems that the gospel and good sense teach and a Christian spirit should dictate when there ought to be a change, and who ought to be the successor. The retirng pastor, the official board (or the pastor's assistants) and the church all guided by the Holy Ghost must do the work. The pastor's authority should not be rejected as long as he manifests God's spirit, and the church ought to be wise and able to discriminate between the spirit of God and the spirit of the world.

Let us notice some of his qualifications as shepherd or pastor. He is caring for and helping men and women. Helping them to stand against the temptations, snares and wiles of sin. Helping them to be good men and women, and even gathering in more sheep into the fold.

The pastor ought to know the nature, disposition, needs and possibilities of the sheep. He must know the proper food to give them or the right kind of pasture to lead them into, and the waters they may be led to. For how can one feed sheep properly who knows not what kind of food they eat, and where they may attain it, or where